

To: Brown, Byron[brown.byron@epa.gov]; Gunasekara, Mandy[Gunasekara.Mandy@epa.gov]
From: Jackson, Ryan
Sent: Wed 4/12/2017 2:22:44 PM
Subject: Fwd: LA Times: Energy Star labels are seen as a cheap way to improve efficiency. Why does Trump want to kill them?, 4/12/17

Could use some messaging help.

Ryan Jackson
 Chief of Staff
 U.S. EPA
 (202) 564-6999

Begin forwarded message:

From: "McGonagle, Kevin" <mcgonagle.kevin@epa.gov>
Date: April 12, 2017 at 9:44:58 AM EDT
To: "Jefferson, Gayle" <Jefferson.Gayle@epa.gov>, "McCabe, Catherine" <McCabe.Catherine@epa.gov>, "Reeder, John" <Reeder.John@epa.gov>, "Flynn, Mike" <Flynn.Mike@epa.gov>, "Grantham, Nancy" <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>, "Hull, George" <Hull.George@epa.gov>, "Slotkin, Ron" <slotkin.ron@epa.gov>, "Sowell, Sarah" <Sowell.Sarah@epa.gov>, "Hart, Daniel" <Hart.Daniel@epa.gov>, "Orquina, Jessica" <Orquina.Jessica@epa.gov>, "Benton, Donald" <benton.donald@epa.gov>, "Bangerter, Layne" <bangerter.layne@epa.gov>, "Davis, Patrick" <davis.patrick@epa.gov>, "Ericksen, Doug" <ericksen.doug@epa.gov>, "Konkus, John" <konkus.john@epa.gov>, "Greaves, Holly" <greaves.holly@epa.gov>, "Kreutzer, David" <kreutzer.david@epa.gov>, "Munoz, Charles" <munoz.charles@epa.gov>, "Schwab, Justin" <schwab.justin@epa.gov>, "Sugiyama, George" <sugiyama.george@epa.gov>, "Jackson, Ryan" <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>, "Valentine, Julia" <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>, "Wilcox, Jahan" <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>, "Freire, JP" <Freire.JP@epa.gov>, "Bowman, Liz" <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>, "Graham, Amy" <graham.amy@epa.gov>, "MacKinnon, Kathleen" <MacKinnon.Kathleen@epa.gov>, "Dibble, Christine" <Dibble.Christine@epa.gov>, "Younes, Lina" <Younes.Lina@epa.gov>, AO OPA Media Relations <AO_OPA_Media_Relations@epa.gov>
Subject: LA Times: Energy Star labels are seen as a cheap way to improve efficiency. Why does Trump want to kill them?, 4/12/17

LA Times

<http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-trump-energy-star-20170412-story.html>

Energy Star labels are seen as a cheap way to improve efficiency. Why does Trump want to kill them?

By Evan Halper 4/12/17 3:00 AM

Commercial real estate giant CBRE is always on alert for shifts in federal government policy that might impact its vast property management and investment business.

But the Los Angeles-based Fortune 500 company never anticipated an effort to eliminate a voluntary, cost-effective initiative that has saved its customers millions of dollars and had almost no critics.

In a reflection of how much influence a handful of free-market think tanks wield over the White House, the Trump administration has decided the immensely popular Energy Star program must go.

The fight centers on the Environmental Protection Agency's 25-year-old effort to boost efficiency in products and services by encouraging companies to compete for coveted, government-issued labels that certify a product or property meets high standards for saving energy and costs.

Functioning like a government seal of approval, the Energy Star program costs taxpayers a pittance and is widely beloved by the 16,000 companies and organizations that participate. Now it is fast becoming a test case of how committed the Trump administration is to pursuing the agenda of once-fringe groups seeking to slash government programs wherever they can.

"Never in my wildest thoughts have I considered something like this," said Dave Pogue, who leads the sustainability efforts at CBRE. He said the program helped the firm cut energy use at its properties by 16% over the last decade.

The proposal has been met with shock across party lines. Christie Todd Whitman, who ran the EPA during the administration of George W. Bush said, "not in a million years" would she have targeted Energy Star. "There was no reason to," she said. "It was a no-brainer. It worked, and it hardly cost any money."

But in a Trump administration eager to roll back federal government action to confront climate change, Energy Star has come under scrutiny. The plan to jettison the program from the federal government, now embedded in the White House budget blueprint, emerged after Trump placed Myron Ebell, a prominent climate skeptic, in charge of his EPA transition team.

Ebell's team disbanded in January and did not write Trump's budget plan, which envisions a privatization scheme where industry would set its own definitions for what products are efficient and police standards itself. But the team provided the administration with a confidential list of proposals aimed at helping the president fulfill his stated goal during the campaign of shrinking the agency as much as possible. Ebell has been one of the most

visible critics of voluntary government energy efficiency programs like Energy Star.

“The EPA is meant to improve environmental quality,” said Ebell, director of environmental initiatives at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, a libertarian think tank on the forefront of disputing the scientific consensus on climate change, as well as the health impacts of tobacco. “I’m not sure what that has to do with how much energy consumers use. But a great deal of the work at EPA has been dedicated to that. The president made clear during the campaign he will get rid of as much of that as he possibly can.”

The voluntary program’s legions of loyalists say Energy Star has everything to with environmental quality. The nation’s biggest companies compete aggressively to win Energy Star labels for their products, which signal to consumers that everything from the air conditioners they purchase at Best Buy to the buildings where they lease office space engage advanced technologies to use the least possible amount of power. The eagerness to meet consumer demand for that seal of approval has driven firms to invest big in cutting energy use.

Energy Star has been a pillar of the federal government’s effort to fight climate change, with the EPA boasting that it has kept some 2.8 billion tons of greenhouse gas from escaping into the atmosphere — or roughly the equivalent produced from powering 36 million homes with electricity each year. It has enabled consumers and businesses to cut their energy bills more than \$30 billion per year.

At an annual cost of \$60 million to taxpayers, it is easily the cheapest and least burdensome initiative the federal government runs to help Americans lower their energy consumption. States have latched onto the program, awarding their own rebates and other incentives to utility customers who use Energy Star products.

Until Trump took office, the voices of a handful of free-market think tanks that dismissed the program as unnecessary government meddling had barely registered in Washington. Now they have the ear of the White House.

“I just think it is something government should not be doing,” Ebell said, “and therefore we should get rid of it. If it has value, private industry can pick it up.” He blames the program for pushing companies to place too much focus on efficiency, saying it leaves consumers with inferior products to choose from. The climate benefits the EPA has boasted about don’t impress Ebell, who accuses scientists of exaggerating the threat of global warming.

Groups like Ebell’s are targeting Energy Star as part of a broader assault on efficiency. Their bigger concern is with the mandates that agencies place on industries — such as fuel mileage standards for car companies — which the Trump administration was already moving aggressively to ease. But even Energy Star runs afoul of an ideology that holds government should be involved in the marketplace only when absolutely necessary.

“This gets back to what is a legitimate function of government,” said Nicolas Loris, a research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, another free-market think tank the White House

leans on heavily for policy guidance. “I don’t see Energy Star as one of those things.”

The traction gained in the crusade against Energy Star is touching off a counter movement of companies and environmental organizations scrambling to protect the quarter-century-old program. They have many allies in Congress.

“Singling this out for elimination was a senseless act,” said Kateri Callahan, president of the Alliance to Save Energy, an advocacy group that is lobbying against the Trump plan. “It is really difficult to see the logic.”

At the EPA, many longtime veterans of the agency have their own ideas. They see Trump’s proposal to jettison the voluntary program as confirmation of their fears that his overarching goal is not to shift the mission of the EPA but to suffocate it.

“If this administration really wants to reorganize around the importance of individual decision-making, getting government out of people’s lives and giving them what they want, then they shouldn’t be getting rid of this program,” said Whitman. “What they really want to do is get rid of the agency. The kinds of cuts they are making are scary.”

Kevin McGonagle

Office of Media Relations Intern

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Telephone: (202)-564-4524

mcgonagle.kevin@epa.gov

To: Snyder, Carolyn[Snyder.Carolyn@epa.gov]; Moss, Jacob[Moss.Jacob@epa.gov]
From: Lupinacci, Jean
Sent: Wed 4/5/2017 3:11:29 PM
Subject: Fwd: List of Other Industry Supporters for Real Estate Roundtable's ENERGY STAR Budget Request
[doc02740920170404145928.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Duane Desiderio" <ddesiderio@rer.org>
To: "Lupinacci, Jean" <Lupinacci.Jean@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: List of Other Industry Supporters for Real Estate Roundtable's ENERGY STAR Budget Request

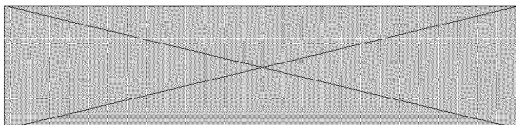
Jean --

As discussed.

Budget request from RER to Rep. Mark Amodei (R-NV), who sits on the House Appropriations Subcommittee for EPA.

Duane J. Desiderio

Senior Vice President and Counsel



The Real Estate Roundtable

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801 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

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Washington, DC 20004

From: Duane Desiderio

Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 9:56 AM

To: 'Riederer, Jason' <Jason.Riederer@mail.house.gov>; Thomas, Kyle
<Kyle.Thomas@mail.house.gov>

Cc: 'ajagoda@isc.org' <ajagoda@isc.org>; 'bkaumaya@nahb.org'
<bkaumaya@nahb.org>; 'BWanless@irem.org' <BWanless@irem.org>;
'Christine.Pollack@rila.org' <Christine.Pollack@rila.org>; 'ckalkut@ahla.com'
<ckalkut@ahla.com>; 'elee@nmhc.org' <elee@nmhc.org>; 'FKocak@nareit.com'
<FKocak@nareit.com>; 'ford@naiop.org' <ford@naiop.org>; 'GBrown@naahq.org'
<GBrown@naahq.org>; 'hcharlesworth@naahq.org' <hcharlesworth@naahq.org>;
'jbryant@boma.org' <jbryant@boma.org>; 'jennamhamilton@gmail.com'
<jennamhamilton@gmail.com>; 'jhamilton@charliemellody.com'
<jhamilton@charliemellody.com>; 'KFreeman@nareit.com' <KFreeman@nareit.com>;
'pcino@nmhc.org' <pcino@nmhc.org>; 'Suarez@naiop.org' <Suarez@naiop.org>

Subject: List of Other Industry Supporters for Real Estate Roundtable's ENERGY STAR
Budget Request

Jason, Kyle –

Following up from our emails earlier this week, below is the list of industry organizations that support the budget request submitted to your office from The Real Estate Roundtable (request attached again), to continue funding for the ENERGY STAR program at current FY'17 levels for the next fiscal year.

The groups are as follows:

American Hotel & Lodging Association

American Seniors Housing Association

Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) International

Institute of Real Estate Management

International Council of Shopping Centers

Leading Builders of America

NAIOP, Commercial Real Estate Development Association

National Apartment Association

National Association of Home Builders

National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts

National Leased Housing Association

National Multifamily Housing Council

Retail Industry Leaders Association

The Real Estate Roundtable

Representatives from these organizations are included in the Cc: line to his email.

Collectively, our organizations represent members involved in almost every aspect of residential and commercial real estate development, construction, ownership, management, finance, contracting, renovation, and building product supply. Our members provide the homes, apartments, offices, health care facilities, hotels, shopping malls, and industrial sites where the American people live, work, and play.

Our coalition is next planning a letter to all Appropriations Committee members, explaining the “business case” on the importance of ENERGY STAR to our industry and the economy at large. Of course, when that letter is finalized, we will send it to you.

We really appreciate your office submitting the ENERGY STAR budget request.

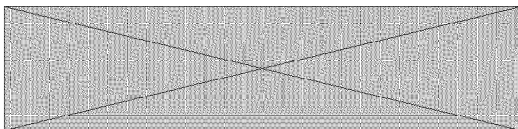
Please don’t hesitate to call or email if we can answer additional questions.

Best,

Duane

Duane J. Desiderio

Senior Vice President and Counsel



The Real Estate Roundtable

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From: Riederer, Jason [<mailto:Jason.Riederer@mail.house.gov>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 2:05 PM

To: Duane Desiderio <ddesiderio@rer.org>; Thomas, Kyle
<Kylc.Thomas@mail.house.gov>

Subject: RE: Real Estate Roundtable -- Follow-Up on Apprps Request for EPA ENERGY STAR Programk

Hi Duane,

Thanks for the email and I appreciate the quick turnaround on the form. No need to meet. We submitted a similar request last year and would be glad to do so again. Next week we'll be swamped with submitting these requests to the Committee so no need to come in. If you have a list of the other real estate stakeholders that support this request, I would be interested in just having that on hand.

Thanks again for the info,

Jason

Jason M. Riederer

Legislative Director

Congressman Mark E. Amodei (NV-2)

332 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Phone: 202-225-6155

Amodei.house.gov

From: Duane Desiderio [<mailto:ddesiderio@rer.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 11:49 AM
To: Thomas, Kyle
Cc: Riederer, Jason
Subject: RE: Real Estate Roundtable -- Follow-Up on Apprps Request for EPA ENERGY STAR Programk

Jason, Kyle –

This is to follow-up on our earlier emails.

Attached is an FY'18 Appropriations Request from The Real Estate Roundtable to maintain FY'17 funding levels for EPA's ENERGY STAR program.

This is a voluntary, non-regulatory, public-private partnership program. It allows for buildings to obtain a voluntary "rating" on high energy efficiency performance. Real estate industry stakeholders support it, as do stakeholders in the manufacturing industry.

The attached request sets forth in greater detail the business and economics case for ENERGY STAR. This EPA program is good for jobs, saves families and businesses money, and enhances U.S. energy independence.

I thought you may be interested in some Nevada-specific statistics for this program: 131 buildings in Nevada—representing 19 million square feet—have earned EPA's ENERGY STAR rating for top performance in energy and water efficiency. Please see the following

map locating ENERGY STAR buildings in Nevada:

https://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=labeled_buildings.showMap&search_prop_manager_id=&

I have several follow-up questions for you:

- (1) Would it be helpful for my colleagues from other real estate organizations to send you a note indicating they also support this request?
- (2) Would it be helpful for us to meet with you and a larger group of real estate industry stakeholders? If yes, **perhaps a meeting next Monday, March 26 any time except noon-2 pm?** If there is a more urgent need to meet before then, let me know and I can rally folks on my end to come in and discuss the issue with you.

Many thanks for considering this request, even though it's outside of your internal office deadline. The Roundtable sincerely appreciates your consideration.

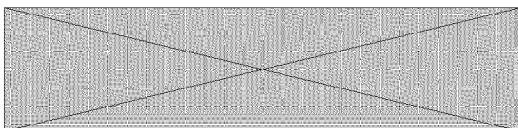
Please let me know how I can best follow-up with you.

Best,

Duane

Duane J. Desiderio

Senior Vice President and Counsel



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From: Thomas, Kyle [<mailto:Kyle.Thomas@mail.house.gov>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 10:18 AM

To: Duane Desiderio <ddesiderio@rer.org>

Cc: Riederer, Jason <Jason.Riederer@mail.house.gov>

Subject: RE: Real Estate Roundtable -- Request to Meet with Mr. Amodi's Approps Staf

Hey Duane – The Congressman's Legislative Director Jason Riederer, copied here, is the best person to connect with for Interior and EPA issues. Like we discussed, our office appropriations form is attached for your reference and our internal deadline was last week.

Kyle Thomas
Legislative Assistant
Congressman Mark E. Amodci (NV-02)
202-225-6155
Cannon HOB 332

From: Duane Desiderio [<mailto:ddesiderio@rer.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 10:07 AM

To: Thomas, Kyle

Subject: Real Estate Roundtable -- Request to Meet with Mr. Amodei's Approps Staf

Hello Kyle –

I hope all is well with you.

I believe you'll recall we've met on several occasions on EB-5, through my close coordination with Laura Reiff, Bob Maples, and the team with the EB-5 Investment Coalition. As always, thank you for Mr. Amodei's incredible support on that front.

Another issue within Mr. Amodei's role as a member of the Appropriations Interior and Environment Subcommittee has arisen, of concern to the real estate industry.

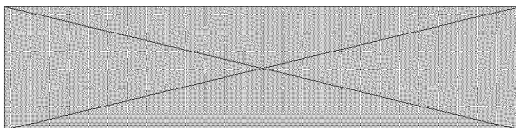
If possible, could you let me know the member on your team who handles approps? I'd like to reach out to her/him and request a meeting with my colleagues from other national real estate organizations.

Many thanks,

Duane

Duane J. Desiderio

Senior Vice President and Counsel



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To: Passe, Jonathan[Passe.Jonathan@epa.gov]
From: Wilbur, Jennifer
Sent: Tue 3/21/2017 7:48:11 PM
Subject: RE: OLEM participation on Thursday

It's not good all around. I can't speak to the particulars at this point, but Energy Star is not alone. As for the budget structure, it depends. You have the visibility of the program, so if Congress includes "for Energy Star \$X" you are pretty good. Basically have to do the work. But that's a long wait and that's what is awful.

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Passe, Jonathan
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:16 PM
To: Wilbur, Jennifer <Wilbur.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: OLEM participation on Thursday

Definitely an unexpected turn of events...

The party line, as you know, is that it's a long process. But I have to tell you that I'm pretty worried.

Even if Congress reduces the overall proposed Agency budget cut, without a specific line item for Energy Star, the Administrator can do whatever he wants with the money he gets, right? If his boss wants to cut or privatize the program, I don't see why he wouldn't. And it's not like the 3rd floor is actually talking to anyone about these ideas.

But you know better about this budget stuff. Do I have the details wrong?

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Are your programs being impacted? I know Brownfields may be in trouble - but I haven't heard much else.

Fun times!

Jon

Jonathan Passe

Chief, ENERGY STAR Residential Branch

U.S. EPA

(202) 343-9793

On Mar 21, 2017, at 2:04 PM, Wilbur, Jennifer <Wilbur.Jennifer@epa.gov> wrote:

LOL! How are you all holding up? Energy Star!! Really, cutting a very successful and one of the most identifiable of all federal programs! I'm so sorry. Hoping wiser heads in Congress will prevail.

From: Passe, Jonathan
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:03 PM
To: Wilbur, Jennifer <Wilbur.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: OLEM participation on Thursday

Slacker ☐

Jon

Jonathan Passe

Chief, ENERGY STAR Residential Branch

U.S. EPA

(202) 343-9793

On Mar 21, 2017, at 2:01 PM, Wilbur, Jennifer <Wilbur.Jennifer@epa.gov> wrote:

Marty, Gerardo & Reps,

Apologies, but OLEM's representation may be limited on Thursday. Paul, my alternate is on leave, and I have the FY18 Budget moving fast and furiously this week. As this is squarely within my wheelhouse, I cannot be out of pocket for too long. I will try to join part of the meeting, but probably can't do all. Again, my apologies, but I hope you all understand this has to take priority.

Jennifer M. Wilbur

Senior Budget Officer and Director, Acquisition and Resources Management Staff

Office of Program Management

Office of Land and Emergency Management

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Wilbur.jennifer@epa.gov

(202) 566-2756

To: Passe, Jonathan[Passe.Jonathan@epa.gov]
Cc: Gamble, Dean[Gamble.Dean@epa.gov]
From: Shadid, Zachary
Sent: Tue 3/14/2017 3:04:43 PM
Subject: Re: Buzz on Trump and ENERGY STAR

Yes. It could be interpreted in other ways and perhaps I'm assuming too much here. I guess we'll see.

I hear you on the AHAM point. I did not notice that before.

My primary concern is that the program remain in the hands of civil servants.

Zak

From: Passe, Jonathan
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 10:45 AM
To: Shadid, Zachary; Gamble, Dean
Subject: Re: Buzz on Trump and ENERGY STAR

Glad that you sent this to me...

I actually think this email could be interpreted completely differently from what we discussed.

The word 'excited' does not necessarily mean in a positive way. It can also mean something more like 'agitated.'

I also don't see anything here that specifically suggests that they are looking

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

I read that they want to get more info and are using the channels they have at their disposal to try to get clarity.

Do I think that they might use those opportunities to also make a play? Yes, I do. As discussed earlier.

Also, Zak - on my point about the Appliance Manufacturers Association/DOE angle, read the last few lines of the article. They've actually come right out and said what I thought was just behind the scenes.

Jon

Jonathan Passe
Chief, ENERGY STAR Residential Branch
U.S. EPA
(202) 343-9793

From: Shadid, Zachary
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 9:52 AM
To: Passe, Jonathan
Subject: Fw: Buzz on Trump and ENERGY STAR

From: Brett Dillon <brett@ibsadvisorsllc.com>
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 2:54 PM
To: Shadid, Zachary
Subject: Fwd: Buzz on Trump and ENERGY STAR

Brett Dillon
CEO
The Dillon Group, Inc

423-304-9235
Sent from my iPhone
Save our in-boxes! <http://emailcharter.org>

Email Charter



Begin forwarded message:

From: "Steve Baden" <sbaden@resnet.us>
Date: March 10, 2017 at 11:54:26 CST

To: "RESNET Board" <resboard@resnet.us>
Cc: "Carl Chidlow" <carl@wswdc.com>
Subject: Buzz on Trump and ENERGY STAR

To: RESNET Board

There is quite a "buzz" going on regarding the White House proposal to move ENERGY STAR from the EPA to a non-profit organization (see article below).

I discussed this with our Washington representative Carl Chidlow and he cautions that a little perspective is needed before getting too excited. First it was an announcement from the White House regarding the 2018 federal budget and not the actual budget. That submission will not be released until next week. We have to wait and see what is actually in the 2018 Trump budget request.

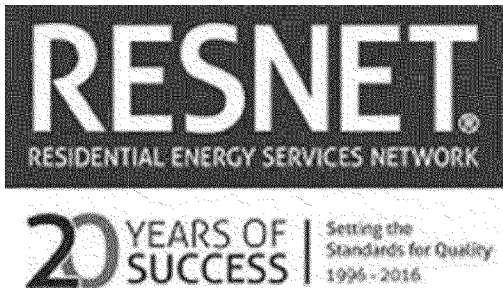
Congress will be the final decision maker on this and it is not clear that Congress will go along with the proposal. ENERGY STAR has a lot of support from the private sector.

I will be in Washington the first week of April and Carl is arranging a meeting with the Heritage Foundation. The announcement sounds a lot like what would come from that organization.

In addition we will be contacting key offices in Congress to judge what reaction is to the budget request, if it even makes it to that stage.

In summary it will be a long process for this to work itself out and let's not get too excited until Congress begins to pick up the 2018 budget request.

We will keep you informed of developments in this field.



Steve Baden

RESNET Executive Director

P.O. Box 4561

Oceanside, CA 92052

760-408-5860

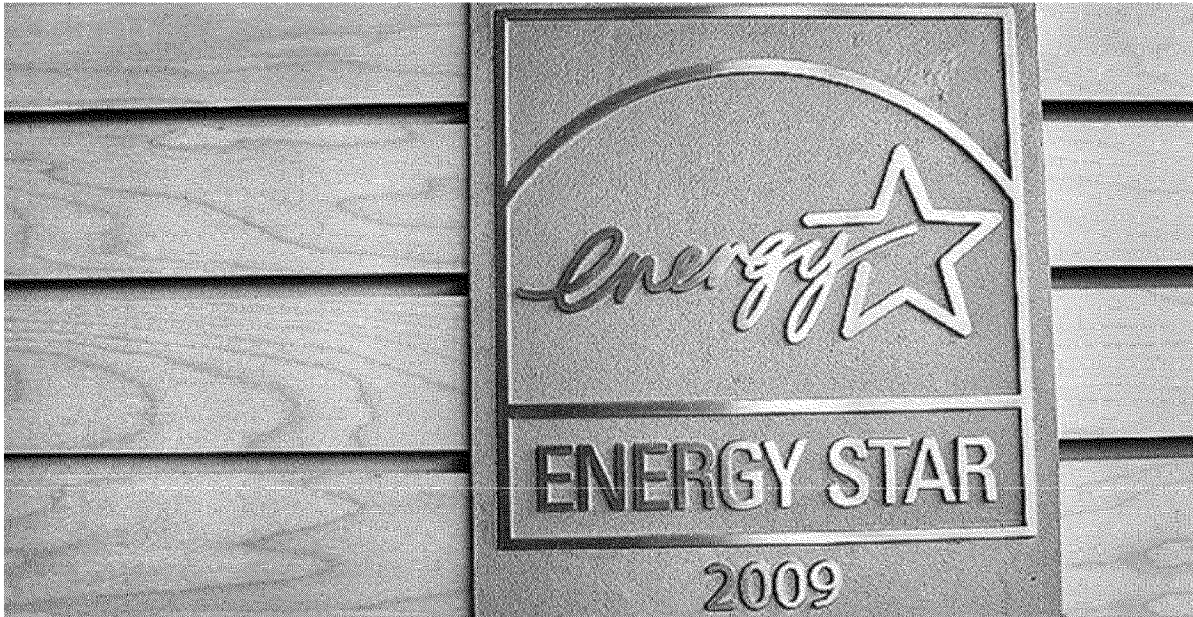
www.resnet.us

EPA

White House plans to 'close out' Energy Star, other programs

Emily Holden, E&E News reporter

Climatewire: Monday, March 6,
2017



The White House is said to be considering cuts to the Energy Star program, a popular efficiency standard used on a large number of products. Photo by MoneyBlogNewz, courtesy of Flickr.

A preliminary budget proposal from the White House would eliminate federal leadership of Energy Star, a popular voluntary program for companies to seek labels for energy-efficient consumer products and appliances.

A spending blueprint would slash Energy Star and related programs, leaving \$5 million "for the closeout or transfer of all the climate protection voluntary partnership programs," noting that achieving that might require changes to authorizing legislation from Congress.

"EPA should begin developing legislative options and associated groundwork for transferring ownership and implementation of Energy Star to a non-governmental entity," the draft reads, according to a source who has viewed the document. "EPA should also explore similar transfer opportunities for the remaining partnership programs as well."

The White House and U.S. EPA are still passing the budget back and forth, although President Trump wants to cut the agency's \$8.2 billion spending by about a quarter to help increase defense spending. Congress will also have to sign off on those levels.

Energy efficiency advocates and state regulators say Energy Star is one of the programs that it doesn't make any sense to cut, because it saves people money while benefiting the environment.

"Some of the most successful programs, mandatory and voluntary, like [the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act] and Energy Star, are slated for elimination notwithstanding their bipartisan and significant support among stakeholders," said Bill Becker, head of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies.

Energy savings experts say a nongovernmental Energy Star program, perhaps one run by industry, would not be as trusted or effective.

"An internal industry label is not going to be as effective, is not going to be as reliable," said Lowell Ungar, senior policy adviser at the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE).

"The consumers aren't going to know whether that really is representing energy savings and savings in their wallet."

Ungar called Energy Star the "most successful voluntary energy efficiency program in the world." He noted that in surveys, 90 percent of consumers recognize the Energy Star brand. More than 5.5 billion products have carried the label since the program began in 1992, he said. Buildings also can be Energy Star-certified.

Energy Star spends about \$50 million through EPA and \$7 million through the Department of Energy, according to ACEEE. The Obama administration said it saved consumers and businesses \$34 billion in electricity costs and prevented more than about 300 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions in one year while improving ambient air quality.

Industry trade groups that use the Energy Star label don't want to jeopardize the brand, although they have recommended changes to the program over the years.

Doug Johnson, vice president of technology policy at the Consumer Technology Association, said he was "not surprised to see it presented as something that could go away."

CTA has supported and promoted Energy Star over the years as the "premier public policy for advancing energy efficiency in electronics," Johnson said.

But he noted that aside from government-mandated regulations and labeling programs, voluntary agreements can also promote energy efficiency.

Talking to 'everyone' in White House

Johnson argues that regulations aren't a good fit for tech products. He said that while voluntary labeling systems like Energy Star and EnergyGuide have been the public policy for years, voluntary agreements are "growing in importance in North America and overseas."

Johnson said the Energy Star "brand could still exist without the formal program, potentially as something that is licensed, perhaps."

He said consumers would know if companies fudge their numbers.

"Competitors are constantly testing and checking each other's products, that's for sure," he said.

Ungar countered, however, that "having an independent agency in charge of this provides some reliability that the criteria are set at a level that is actually efficient as opposed to what products are normally."

While CTA says innovation is what drives energy efficiency improvements, ACEEE says Energy Star plays a big role.

"Typically, Energy Star tries to set the label at a level that about 25 percent of products meet for a given item, and you then can see over the next few years that level increases because companies want to achieve and want their products to have the Energy Star [because] it helps sell products," Ungar said.

While CTA generally supports Energy Star, Johnson argues that manufacturers have faced increasing costs to participate in the program.

CTA represents makers of electronic products, like computers, monitors and set-top boxes, which account for about 60 percent of electricity savings under Energy Star, according to Johnson.

A 2010 Government Accountability Office report showed Energy Star's certification process was vulnerable to fraud and abuse. GAO was able to get certifications for 15 bogus products.

After that, Energy Star began requiring third-party certification of energy savings. Johnson says the requirement is meant more for appliance manufacturers, though. CTA supported a provision in last year's Senate-passed energy bill that would have addressed the requirement.

The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers also wants changes to the Energy Star program.

The Department of Energy had a bigger role with the program before the Obama administration shifted authority mostly to EPA, said Kevin Messner, senior vice president of policy and government relations with the home appliance group.

Messner said the association's "main and only push right now" is to move Energy Star back to DOE.

DOE already handles federal minimum standards that makers of refrigerators, washers and dryers must meet, including under EnergyGuide requirements where they must disclose energy use, Messner explained. EPA also has been using Energy Star to encourage other kinds of environmental improvements outside energy efficiency, Messner argued.

Messner said AHAM members have had problems because the program is split between two agencies that don't coordinate enough.

"We have been talking to anyone and everyone in the Trump administration," Messner said last week.

Ross Wallace

Energy Inspectors

One Civic Center Drive, Suite 300

San Marcos, CA 92069

cell: 760.916.5258 **fax:** 760.761.3650

@: rwallace@energyinspectors.com

<http://www.EnergyInspectors.com>



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Cc: Anderson, Doug[Anderson.Doug@epa.gov]
To: Doherty, Sharron[DOHERTY.SHARRON@EPA.GOV]
From: Passe, Jonathan
Sent: Fri 4/21/2017 7:37:42 PM
Subject: Re: HVAC installation call order

Call it a casualty of anticipated budget cuts. The work will continue on the program

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Jon

Jonathan Passe
Chief, ENERGY STAR Residential Branch
U.S. EPA
(202) 343-9793

From: Doherty, Sharron
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2017 3:30 PM
To: Passe, Jonathan
Subject: FW: HVAC installation call order

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Sharron K. Doherty

Contracts Coordinator

U.S. EPA

OAR/OAP/IO/PMS

Mailing Address:
William Jefferson Clinton Building

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Mailcode: 6201A

Washington, DC 20460

202-564-3075

To: Wilbur, Jennifer[Wilbur.Jennifer@epa.gov]
From: Passe, Jonathan
Sent: Tue 3/21/2017 7:16:24 PM
Subject: Re: OLEM participation on Thursday

Definitely an unexpected turn of events...

The party line, as you know, is that it's a long process. But I have to tell you that I'm pretty worried.

Even if Congress reduces the overall proposed Agency budget cut, without a specific line item for Energy Star, the Administrator can do whatever he wants with the money he gets, right? If his boss wants to cut or privatize the program, I don't see why he wouldn't. And it's not like the 3rd floor is actually talking to anyone about these ideas.

But you know better about this budget stuff. Do I have the details wrong?

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Are your programs being impacted? I know Brownfields may be in trouble - but I haven't heard much else.

Fun times!

Jon
Jonathan Passe
Chief, ENERGY STAR Residential Branch
U.S. EPA
(202) 343-9793

On Mar 21, 2017, at 2:04 PM, Wilbur, Jennifer <Wilbur.Jennifer@epa.gov> wrote:

LOL! How are you all holding up? Energy Star!! Really, cutting a very successful and one of the most identifiable of all federal programs! I'm so sorry. Hoping wiser heads in Congress will prevail.

From: Passe, Jonathan
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:03 PM
To: Wilbur, Jennifer <Wilbur.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: OLEM participation on Thursday

Slacker ☐

Jon

Jonathan Passe

Chief, ENERGY STAR Residential Branch

U.S. EPA

(202) 343-9793

On Mar 21, 2017, at 2:01 PM, Wilbur, Jennifer <Wilbur.Jennifer@epa.gov> wrote:

Marty, Gerardo & Reps,

Apologies, but OLEM's representation may be limited on Thursday. Paul, my alternate is on leave, and I have the FY18 Budget moving fast and furiously this week. As this is squarely within my wheelhouse, I cannot be out of pocket for too long. I will try to join part of the meeting, but probably can't do all. Again, my apologies, but I hope you all understand this has to take priority.

Jennifer M. Wilbur

Senior Budget Officer and Director, Acquisition and Resources Management Staff

Office of Program Management

Office of Land and Emergency Management

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Wilbur.jennifer@epa.gov

(202) 566-2756

To: Ng, Brian[Ng.Brian@epa.gov]
From: Passe, Jonathan
Sent: Tue 2/28/2017 6:04:37 PM
Subject: Re: Article

Ummm. That's rather upsetting -- and, if true, counter to what we hoped/expected. For the first time, now I'm actually kind of scared.

Can you send me the whole article? Then link wanted a password to access it.

Any word from OCSPP? I haven't heard anything.

Jon
Jonathan Passe
Chief, ENERGY STAR Residential Branch
U.S. EPA
(202) 343-9793

On Feb 28, 2017, at 10:59 AM, Ng, Brian <Ng.Brian@epa.gov> wrote:

FYI:

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=106340455&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0k9t

“Non-mandatory voluntary programs could be the first to get cut or moved to the private sector, said Taveau, who now works as a regulatory and global trade specialist for King & Spalding LLP in Washington. The best known example of these is the EnergyStar program, which certifies energy-efficient appliances.”

Brian

To: Ng, Brian[Ng.Brian@epa.gov]
From: Passe, Jonathan
Sent: Tue 2/28/2017 8:28:07 PM
Subject: RE: Article

It's OK. Probably a good reality check that maybe I shouldn't be so complacent and assume that 'bad stuff' is only going to happen to other programs and people. But I know that this article, in and of itself, is not definitive info.

Jon

Jonathan Passe

Chief, ENERGY STAR Residential Branch

(202) 343-9793

From: Ng, Brian
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:07 PM
To: Passe, Jonathan <Passe.Jonathan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Article

Sorry. Didn't mean to freak you out.

From: Passe, Jonathan
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:05 PM
To: Ng, Brian <Ng.Brian@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Article

No -- I wouldn't have thought so either...

Looking for the silver lining in this: As we know, the President's proposed budget is basically

just that – a proposal. The REAL budget is set in Congress – and it may or may not be consistent with the President’s proposal – usually not. Of course, this year could be different with Repubs controlling the White House and both Chambers. Nothing to do now but wait and see – but I will admit that this makes the waiting more than a little bit uncomfortable. Seeing the actual program in writing in that context does freak me out – I’m not gonna lie.

Jon

Jonathan Passe

Chief, ENERGY STAR Residential Branch

(202) 343-9793

From: Ng, Brian
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:52 PM
To: Passe, Jonathan <Passe.Jonathan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Article

Very funny. I don’t know if the info. in the article comes from any reliable source, like most of what’s been written in the news about EPA lately. I don’t know how anyone could just terminate one of the most successful voluntary, public-private energy efficiency programs ever.

From: Passe, Jonathan
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:34 PM
To: Ng, Brian <Ng.Brian@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Article

You may want to call them.

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Jon

Jonathan Passe

Chief, ENERGY STAR Residential Branch

U.S. EPA

(202) 343-9793

On Feb 28, 2017, at 1:14 PM, Ng, Brian <Ng.Brian@epa.gov> wrote:

Here's the article:

Budget

As Budget Cuts Loom, Industry Seeks to Save Some EPA Programs

<image002.png>

Snapshot

- President Trump is set to release a major budget re-shuffle to federal agencies today
- The new administration could cut EPA voluntary programs or move them to the private sector
- Former EPA officials say further cuts would drastically affect enforcement, public health

By [Tiffany Stecker](#)

President Donald Trump sent out his budget blueprint to federal agencies Feb. 27, seeking to slash the budget for the EPA and other agencies while boosting defense spending by \$54 billion.

With a baseline for the next fiscal year in hand—pending approval from Congress, which authorizes and appropriates funds to federal agencies—EPA leaders will have to ask themselves a difficult question: what will be the first programs to go? Chemical industry groups are hoping the incoming administration will save its key programs at the Environmental Protection Agency that are essential to keep their businesses moving.

The pesticide industry, which depends on the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention to put its products on the market, has been particularly active in telling the White House's advisers not to blindly take a hatchet to the agency's budget.

Industries Lobby for Strengthening EPA Program

"This administration has made no big secret about cutting the EPA," Ed Ruckert, an attorney in the Washington office of McDermott, Will and Emery who represents several agricultural and pest control organizations, told Bloomberg BNA. "I think you're going to see industry say 'this is an organization that needs to be maintained and strengthened'."

Many industries—from the power plant sector to construction, to water utilities—depend on the EPA to issue the permits

necessary to legally operate their businesses. Slowdowns or halts in permitting could constrain operations.

But pesticide manufacturers that make crop insecticides, household disinfectants and other such chemicals are unique because they pay fees to the Office of Pesticide Programs to ensure that work gets done. Congress is poised to reauthorize a bill later this year that would renew the business's commitment to paying dues in exchange for certainty about the approvals they legally need to stay in business.

Under the latest iteration, the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act ([H.R. 1029](#)) will allow the EPA to raise up to \$31 million—an increase from \$27.8 million—to maintain the registrations of existing pesticides. At the same time, congressional appropriations since fiscal year 2010 have dropped from about \$143 million per year to about \$120 million. Congress has sidestepped this obligation by issuing waivers that allow the industry fees to fund pesticide licensing despite the low appropriations.

The PRIA Coalition—headed by agricultural pesticide association CropLife America and consumer trade group, the Consumer Specialty Products Association—have met with the EPA and with lawmakers to press their case to preserve the program.

Doug Ericksen, spokesman for the transition team at the EPA, did not respond to Bloomberg BNA's request for comment on the agency's budget.

The agency's new administrator, Scott Pruitt, made his name fighting the Obama administration in court over high-profile regulations on climate change and water. E-mails released to the public last week by the Center for Media and Democracy show that Pruitt worked closely with the oil and gas industry on policy issues as he served as Oklahoma's attorney general. Backers of the agency under President Barack Obama fear that Pruitt will put a target on the agency's climate change work, undoing much of the effort his predecessors Lisa Jackson and Gina McCarthy put forward.

The clampdown on the agency comes after a steady decline in the budget over the last seven years. The EPA's spending allowance has declined from \$10.3 billion in fiscal year 2010 to \$8.1 billion in fiscal year 2016.

Drastic Impacts?

Former agency officials are decrying the impact of the expected cuts.

Staff already has grappled with smaller conference travel budgets, cuts in discretionary expenses, and less contractor support to assist with reducing environmental and health risks, said Jim Aidala, former EPA assistant administrator under President Bill Clinton and now a senior government affairs consultant with Bergeson & Campbell, P.C.

"The agency is really operating on a bare bones budget," Mathy Stanislaus, the former head of the EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management, told Bloomberg BNA. Stanislaus was a presidential appointee in the Obama administration.

The EPA is already operating at a "life support level," said Tracey Woodruff, a former scientist in the Office of Policy under Presidents Clinton and George W. Bush.

"It's going to have really drastic implications for EPA's ability to enforce environmental regulations," Woodruff, now director of the Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment at the University of California, San Francisco, told Bloomberg BNA.

Myron Ebell, a director at the Competitive Enterprise Institute and former environmental adviser to Trump, said earlier this year that the administration could cut the agency's staff levels by two-thirds.

"Good luck with that," Aidala told Bloomberg BNA, responding to the possibility of such a drastic cut. "It would be very tough to do it."

Voluntary Programs in the Cross-Hairs

But offices like the pesticides division—and the air and water offices that have drawn fire for recent regulatory proposals—won't be the first to feel a belt-tightening said Daniella Taveau, a former trade negotiator for the EPA.

Non-mandatory voluntary programs could be the first to get cut or moved to the private sector, said Taveau, who now works as a regulatory and global trade specialist for King & Spalding LLP in Washington. The best known example of these is the EnergyStar program, which certifies energy-efficient appliances.

"We should expect a leaner organization, focused on the core mission of EPA," she told Bloomberg BNA. That means cutting some programs, but also reinvesting in information technology, communications and scientific research, she said.

Taveau and others expect some former George W. Bush appointees to return to the agency. Changes in leadership at the regional level, often the first and ablest responders to local environmental crises, may also be afoot.

But Taveau thinks the cuts offer the EPA a chance to improve management and create a more efficient agency, allowing the EPA to emerge as a regulatory model for the world.

If Pruitt is able to cut some of the perceived excess, said Taveau, "I think he could be a hero."

I have not heard back from OCSPP.

Brian

From: Passe, Jonathan
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:05 PM
To: Ng, Brian <Ng.Brian@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Article

Ummm. That's rather upsetting -- and, if true, counter to what we hoped/expected. For the first time, now I'm actually kind of scared.

Can you send me the whole article? Then link wanted a password to access it.

Any word from OCSPP? I haven't heard anything.

Jon

Jonathan Passe

Chief, ENERGY STAR Residential Branch

U.S. EPA

(202) 343-9793

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Brian

To: Pruitt, Scott[Pruitt.Scott@epa.gov]
From: ben ives
Sent: Mon 4/3/2017 3:42:16 PM
Subject: Energy Star

Dear Scott Pruitt,

I am an architect and small business owner.

I am writing to express my concerns about your agenda to do away with the Energy Star program. I rely on this program to help my customers decisions with regard to choosing energy efficient appliances. My business relies heavily on my expertise with regards to designing and overseeing the construction of energy efficient additions and small homes. Your message, wrongfully I believe, undermines my work and earnest, sincere, concern for saving on energy bills and doing right by the environment. Both are concerns my clients and I share.

Thanks,

Ben Ives, RA

--

<http://buildingadvisor.com/your-team/architects/>

To: Pruitt, Scott[Pruitt.Scott@epa.gov]
Cc: Brennan, Thomas[Brennan.Thomas@epa.gov]
From: Ian McTiernan
Sent: Thur 3/16/2017 7:11:14 PM
Subject: Architecture Industry Support for EPA Programs
[EPA Programs Firm Letter.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon,

The AIA would like to share with you [the attached letter](#) on behalf of nearly 800 architecture firms from 48 states. The letter outlines several of EPA's programs and resources which support the business of architecture.

We would also like to request a meeting with the administrator to discuss these issues. Please let me know what additional information you may need in order to process this request. Thank you.

Best,

Ian

Ian McTiernan
Manager, Federal Relations

The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20006
T (202) 626 7374
IanMcTiernan@aia.org

aia.org

To: Pruitt, Scott[Pruitt.Scott@epa.gov]
From: Jill Rand
Sent: Wed 3/29/2017 6:19:10 AM
Subject: Re: Climate change and carbon dioxide

Dear Mr. Pruitt:

I'm writing because I'm alarmed that you don't seem to think that carbon dioxide is a primary contributor to man-made global climate change. There may still be much to learn about climate change but there are a few things we know without a doubt:

- the climate is changing much more rapidly than ever before
- the climate's warming closely follows the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide, which is clearly linked to the rise of the industrial age and global fossil fuel use
- the climate is already changing - this isn't an issue to be set aside for another generation to solve.

To downplay the role of carbon dioxide in climate change and to downplay climate change altogether is unforgivable from the head of the Environmental Protection Agency. It's an insult to the people in the US and all over the world who are facing floods, droughts, and storms unlike anything we've seen before. A further insult is dismantling programs like the Environmental Justice Program and Energy Star, both of which provide clear, tangible benefits to people.

Your job is to protect the environment - the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land we live on - not the fossil fuel industry, no matter your previous allegiances. Please keep this in mind as you move forward in your role. And if you can't keep it straight, please resign immediately so someone more qualified can take this post that's so critical to our health and future.

Sincerely,
Jill Rand
Kirkland, WA 98034

To: Pruitt, Scott[Pruitt.Scott@epa.gov]
From: Jill Rand
Sent: Thur 3/23/2017 5:47:27 AM
Subject: Re: Climate change and carbon dioxide

Dear Mr. Pruitt:

I'm writing because I'm alarmed that you don't seem to think that carbon dioxide is a primary contributor to man-made global climate change. There may still be much to learn about climate change but there are a few things we know without a doubt:

- the climate is changing much more rapidly than ever before
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Sincerely,
 Jill Rand
 Kirkland, WA 98034

On Mon, Mar 13, 2017 at 4:49 PM, Jill Rand Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy wrote:

Dear Mr. Pruitt:

I'm writing because I'm alarmed that you don't seem to think that carbon dioxide is a primary contributor to man-made global climate change. There may still be much to learn about climate change but there are a few things we know without a doubt:

- the climate is changing much more rapidly than ever before
- the climate's warming closely follows the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide, which is clearly linked to the rise of the industrial age and global fossil fuel use
- the climate is already changing - this isn't an issue to be set aside for another generation to solve.

To downplay the role of carbon dioxide in climate change and to downplay climate change altogether is unforgivable from the head of the Environmental Protection Agency. It's an insult to the people in the US and all over the world who are facing floods, droughts, and storms unlike anything we've seen before. A further insult is dismantling programs like the Environmental Justice Program and Energy Star, both of which provide clear, tangible benefits to people.

Your job is to protect the environment - the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land we live on - not the fossil fuel industry, no matter your previous allegiances. Please keep this in mind as you move forward in your role.

Sincerely,
 Jill Rand
 Kirkland, WA 98034

To: Pruitt, Scott[Pruitt.Scott@epa.gov]
From: Laura Martin
Sent: Mon 3/27/2017 8:48:41 PM
Subject: opinion from Indiana grandmother

To Secretary Pruitt,

I am dismayed with your statements and positions on our environment. You are more interested in saving jobs than saving the environment. The EPA stands for the ENVIRONMENTAL Protection Agency - not JOBS Protection agency. You said we can save both, but that is clearly not the case when you eliminate regulations that keep our air, water, and soil safe. I agree that we can create more jobs and clean up the environment, but my way is better...creating GREEN jobs by retro-fitting buildings and businesses, by building better windmills, batteries, solar panels, etc. Please reverse your elimination of the Energy Star Program that saves so much energy. PLEASE stop the defunding of the Great Lakes clean-up (97% cut), Puget Sound clean-up (93%), and the Chesapeake Bay clean-up (93% cut).

I grew up on Lake Erie near the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland. You don't remember what it was like when the river BURNED it was so polluted. Then the EPA cleaned it up and now there are businesses and restaurants thriving along the beautiful river. If you cut the clean-up, these businesses will wither, JOBS lost. Eco-tourism is big and is not compatible with your policies. Please consider what you are doing! From all appearances now, your main consideration is how to save the polluters money. That is pretty obvious.

It's just not right.

Laura Martin, RN, BSN
Indiana

To: Pruitt, Scott[Pruitt.Scott@epa.gov]
From: Environmental Defense Fund
Sent: Thur 4/20/2017 5:47:28 PM
Subject: I support the Clean Power Plan

Apr 20, 2017

Administrator E. Scott Pruitt

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

I strongly support the Clean Power Plan and oppose your efforts to dismantle this vital program. This is one of the most important actions America has taken to reduce climate pollution and unleash clean energy innovation -- and it will yield vital health benefits including thousands of avoided deaths, asthma attacks, and hospitalizations each year.

Not only does this plan yield a safer climate, it is essential to fulfilling EPA's legal responsibility to protect the public from harmful climate pollution. Moreover, it does so in a way that gives states great flexibility in how they meet their pollution reduction goals.

More than 8 million Americans submitted public comments supporting carbon standards and the Clean Power Plan when it was proposed during the Obama Administration. And there is strong, diverse support for the Clean Power Plan, even in states currently suing over the standards. .. According to a recent Yale survey, a majority of Americans in every Congressional district of the country support setting strict limits on carbon dioxide emissions from America's existing coal-fired power plants. Overall, more than two-thirds of American voters favor federal action to reduce emissions of pollutants that cause climate change.

As the Administrator of the EPA, I implore you to listen to the will of the people. Now is not the time to go backward. The Clean Power Plan will unleash innovation and make America more competitive in the 21st century. I strongly urge you to back down from attacking this landmark pollution reduction standard.

Additionally, slashing the EPA's funding doesn't make any sense!

One of the programs on the to-be-dissolved-list is the Energy Star program, an initiative that's as much about saving money as it is about saving the climate. If this program is eliminated consumers (like me) wouldn't know which products were efficient, plus we would waste even more energy, let alone, waste our hard earned dollars.

Moreover, how will reducing the EPA's budget and eliminating many of its initiatives help position America globally as an innovative energy leader, -- let alone, protect our own environment here in the United States.

And, the proposal of transferring energy-efficiency and/or energy-efficiency-oversight initiatives to non-federal-government

entities is absurd.

You now lead the Environmental Protection Agency even though you have demonstrated that you care neither about the American people or our environment. In an editorial you railed against reducing carbon emissions from U.S. power plants. You campaigned against states complying with the Clean Power Plan -- hating the Plan so much that you --sued-- the Environmental Protection Agency -- the agency you now leads -- to try to block it and encouraged other states to join you.

I recently read that the Environmental Protection Agency has issued a new, more detailed paper outlining the layoff of 25 percent of its workforce and scrapping 56 programs.

I am interested in and I support a safer climate, healthier air and a vibrant clean energy future that includes helping the average American conserve and keeping the average American well informed.

I am among the thousands who oppose POTUS's, the current administration's and the GOP's effort to dismantle this vital program.

Sincerely,

Mr. M Stephens

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

To: Pruitt, Scott[Pruitt.Scott@epa.gov]
From: Law Office of Michael Fiflis
Sent: Wed 4/26/2017 4:17:54 AM
Subject: Energy Star and Safer Choice

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

I urge you to reevaluate eliminating ENERGY STAR from the proposed EPA budget.

In 2015 alone, ENERGY STAR delivered more than \$34 billion in energy-saving benefits to American businesses and consumers. Yet the program costs only \$50 million per year to administer. *That's return on investment!* In addition:

- Over 1.6 million new homes have earned the ENERGY STAR label.
- ENERGY STAR-certified commercial buildings saved over \$3.8 billion in energy costs between 1995 and 2015.
- Over 68,750 K-12 school buildings utilize ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager to save \$140,000 on utility bills a year (per 800,000 square foot school district).
- Several cities and states trust ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager to rate and benchmark energy performance in commercial and multifamily buildings.
- Utilities across the country partner with and rely on ENERGY STAR ratings for homes, buildings, and appliances.
- When making purchasing decisions, millions of households and businesses depend on the ENERGY STAR label to save energy and money. In 2015 alone, Americans purchased over 300 million ENERGY STAR certified products across more than 70 product categories.
- Americans have saved \$4.50 in lower utility bills for every \$1 invested in ENERGY STAR products.
- Thousands of major corporations and other private companies act as both suppliers and consumers of qualified ENERGY STAR products.
- And last but not least, federal agencies reduce federal spending by buying ENERGY STAR labeled products.

The Trump Administration has mentioned transferring ownership of ENERGY STAR to a non-governmental entity. For obvious reasons, ENERGY STAR would **not** work as a private sector endeavor.

Please continue to fully fund this critical, cost-effective, non-partisan energy efficiency program.

Finally, I am unsure what the Trump Administration has in mind for Safer Choice, but that too is a much-needed and worthwhile EPA program. Over 2,000 Safer Choice labeled products have met strict standards verified through scientific protocol. Americans depend on the EPA's Safer Choice label.

Michael Fiflis

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy